

LIST OF HAZARDOUS PLANTS

HAY FEVER PLANTS

Grasses
Ragweeds
Flowering trees, especially Alnus
(Alder) and Quercus (Oaks)

DERMATITIS & SKIN RASHES

Buttercup
Cactus-like Euphorbias
Carrots
Crown of Thorns
Datura
Dill
Fennel
Gas Plant
Iris
Jimson Weed
Lady's-slippers
Nettles
Parsnips
Poinsettia
Poison Hemlock
Poison Ivy
Poison Oak
Poison Sumac
Rock Poppy
Snow-on-the-Mountain

PLANTS THAT HARM WHEN EATEN

Amaryllis
Autumn Crocus
Azalea
Baneberry
Belladonna
Bittersweet
Black Locust
Bleeding Heart
Bloodroot
Boxwood
Burning Bush (Euonymus)
Buttercup
Caladium
Castor Bean
Celastrus
Cherry, Jerusalem
Cherry, Wild Black
Chokecherry
Crocus, Autumn

Daffodil
Daphne
Datura
Delphinium
Dieffenbachia (Dumb Cane)
Digitalis (Foxglove)
English Ivy
Euonymus
False Hellebore
Glory Lily
Golden Chain Tree
Holly
Hyacinth
Jack-in-the-pulpit
Jequirity Pea
Jerusalem Cherry
Jimson Weed
Laburnum
Lantana
Larkspur
Lily-of-the-valley
Lupine
Marijuana
Marsh Marigold
Mayapple
Mistletoe
Monkshood
Morning Glory
Mountain Laurel
Mushrooms, Death Angel (Amanita)
Narcissus
Nightshade
Oleander
Peyote
Philodendron
Poinsettia
Poison Hemlock
Pokeberry
Potato Vines, Sprouts from Tubers,
Green Tubers
Privet
Rhododendron
Rhubarb Leaves
Skunk Cabbage
Taxus (hemlock, yew)
Water Hemlock
Wisteria

HAZARDS IN THE GARDEN

Every adult who spends time outdoors with a child should be aware that parts of some plants are harmful if eaten and others cause misery (to susceptible persons) if touched. It shouldn't take long to figure out the basic ground rules for safety:

- Teach a child NEVER to taste any part of a wild or cultivated plant unless an adult says it is O.K. to eat.
- Teach a child to recognize and avoid touching poison ivy and stinging nettle, two of the most common skin irritants.

POISON IVY

"Leaflets three, let it be." Poison ivy's trademark is its cluster of three leaflets, growing in alternate fashion from the stem. The middle leaflet has a longer stalk than the others. Poison ivy can be a shrub, vine, or trailer. Its leaves can be shiny or dull, smooth or hairy, smooth-edged or toothed, and they turn reddish in autumn. All parts of the plant are "poisonous" at all times of year, even winter. Birds feast on its white berries, so it brings satisfaction to wildlife, if misery to humans. Wash hands and clothes with soap after contact, to keep the oil from spreading.

STINGING NETTLE

Look for opposite, toothed leaves on plants two to four feet tall when you walk along roadsides or in moist woods. These perennial weeds usually grow in large patches. Brush against a plant and say "ouch!" as the hairs on the stems and leaves sting you. Luckily, there's often a jewelweed (or "touch-me-not") nearby. Grab it and rub the juice from its stem on the nettle sting for instant relief.

- Put "Mr. Yuk" stickers on garden fertilizers and other poisonous substances, and store them out of the reach of young children.
- Eat rhubarb stalks, but beware of the leaves. They're poisonous. So are potato vines, daffodil bulbs, sweet pea seeds, and parts of many other plants.
- Beware of the poisonous coating on treated seeds and some pressure-treated wood, and don't let children nibble on either.